

Caught in the Act: By CIA's Own Standards, White House Damaged U.S. Intelligence Efforts

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today responded to comments made by CIA Director Porter Goss denouncing government officials who leak intelligence information to reporters. His statements came on the same day that new reports revealed that I. Lewis Libby, Dick Cheney's former Chief of Staff, had been ordered by the White House to leak classified intelligence estimates of Iraq's pre-war weapons capabilities to members of the press.

"It is truly fitting that Mr. Goss's comments were published on the same day that we learned of the Bush Administration's willingness to imperil the work of our intelligence agencies for partisan political gain," Rep. Slaughter said. **"By Mr. Goss's own standards, the White House has engaged in the reprehensible act of damaging our national security in a misguided quest to preserve its own standing in the minds of the American people,"** she added.

"Once again, this Administration put its own well-being first, and the well-being of the American people second."

"This is yet another example of the double-standards and double-speak that define the conduct of this White House," Rep. Slaughter continued. **"How can senior aides in the Administration be ordered to leak classified information about an impending war, and then claim the moral high ground when other leaks, ones damaging to the Administration's credibility, have occurred?"**

Rep. Slaughter said.

"The Administration is effectively admitting that it has violated its own principals. It is clear that its political strategy is what it cares about most."

BACKGROUND

Both the comments made by Director Goss and the article mentioning Mr. Libby appeared in the February 10th edition of the *New York Times*. Excerpts from the articles can be found below:

"[T]hose who choose the bypass the law and go straight to the press are not noble, honorable or patriotic. Nor are they whistleblowers. Instead they are committing a criminal act that potentially places American lives at risk..."

"...Revelations of intelligence successes or failures, whether accurate or not, can aid Al Qaeda and its global affiliates in many ways. A leak is invaluable to them, even if it only, say, prematurely confirms whether one of their associates is dead or alive. They can gain much more: these disclosures can tip the terrorists to new technologies we use, our operational tactics, and the identities of the brave men and women who risk their lives to assist us."

- " [Loose Lips Sink Spies](#) ," by Porter Goss, *New York Times*, February 10, 2006

"I. Lewis Libby, the former chief of staff to Vice President Dick Cheney, told a grand jury that he was authorized by his 'superiors' to disclose classified information to reporters about Iraq's weapons capability in June and July 2003, according to a document filed by a federal prosecutor."

- " [Libby Testifies Leak Was Ordered, Counsel Says](#) ," *New York Times*, February 10, 2006